

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03218 050841Z
ACTION EUR-12

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/053 W

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R 041210Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1245
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMCONSUL GOTEBOG UNN

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3218

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SW
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SIGN 1977 COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

REF: STOCKHOLM 2269

1. THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS FOR 1977 HAVE FINALLY BEEN COMPLETED WITH AGREEMENTS NOW REACHED ALSO IN THE LOCAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SECTORS. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, COVERING ABOUT 700,000 EMPLOYEES OF COUNTY COUNCILS AND MUNICIPALITIES, PROVIDES FOR SALARY INCREASES OF BETWEEN 15 AND 5.6 PERCENT, WITH AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 10 PERCENT, AS FROM JULY 1 AND A 7 PERCENT INCREASE RETROACTIVELY AS FROM MAY 1. THE AGREEMENT HAS THE TRADITIONAL LOW-WAGE PROFILE, GIVING HIGHER PERCENTAGE INCREASES TO LOW-WAGE EARNERS. THE GREATEST OBSTACLE TO AN AGREEMENT IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR WAS PRESENTED BY THE NURSES, WHO HAVE LONG CONSIDERED THEMSELVES TO BE UNDERPAID AND NOW DEMANDED A 40 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE. AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT THEIR TCO NEGOTIATING CARTEL, KTK, WOULD NOT SUPPORT THEM IN CASE THEY WENT ON STRIKE, THEY FINALLY GAVE IN AND ACCEPTED THE MEDIATORS' PROPOSAL GIVING THEM A 15 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE.

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03218 050841Z

2. THE AGREEMENT REACHED FOR 520,000 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PROVIDES FOR SALARY INCREASES OF BETWEEN 6.2 AND 14.6 PERCENT, GIVING THE HIGHEST INCREASES TO THE LOWEST PAID, AS FROM JULY 1. IN ADDITION AN AVERAGE OF KR. 900 PER EMPLOYEE WILL BE PAID OUT IN PARTIAL COMPENSATION FOR THE AGREEMENT'S NOT BEING RETROACTIVE. THE TOTAL COST TO THE EMPLOYER WILL BE 10.1 PERCENT. THE AGREEMENT ALSO INCLUDES

A WAGE DEVELOPMENT GUARANTEE CLAUSE, ACCORDING TO WHICH
SALARIES IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR WILL BE ADJUSTED AT THE END
OF THE YEAR TO COMPENSATE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR WAGE DRIFT.
THE EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES COMMENT ON THE AGREEMENT
BY SAYING THAT THEIRS IS A BETTER AGREEMENT THAN THE PRIVATE
SECTOR ONE, AND THAT THEY HAVE MANAGED TO PROTECT THEIR
MEMBERS' REAL INCOME. THE EMPLOYER CHIEF NEGOTIATOR
SAYS IN A COMMENT THAT THIS AGREEMENT COSTS MORE THAN
SWEDEN CAN AFFORD, AND THAT IT WILL ACCELERATE INFLATION.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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